INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT



A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 G01N25/20 G01N G01N25/22 G01N25/28 G01N25/36 According to international Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC **B. FIELDS SEARCHED** Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) GO1N Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. Α US 4 386 858 A (KUDE WILLIAM B ET AL) 1,10 7 June 1983 (1983-06-07) the whole document Α US 4 178 800 A (THOMANN CHRISTOPH) 1,10 18 December 1979 (1979-12-18) cited in the application the whole document Α DATABASE WPI 1.10 Section EI, Week 198737 Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; Class S03, AN 1987-262526 XP002273014 & SU 1 286 979 A (LENGD REFRIG IND IN), 30 January 1987 (1987-01-30) cited in the application abstract X Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: 'T' later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international 'X' document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the extra "O' document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed in the art "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 10 March 2004 19/03/2004 Name and malling address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentiaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Joyce, D Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016